Clearance of Srisailam left bank Canal Scheme

1880. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Srisailam Left Bank Canal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh has since been cleared ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) to (c) The Project was returned to the State Governments in June, 1987 with a comment, among others, to clearly establish the water availability on long term basis. The State Government have not complied with the observations.

Income-tax raids on Indian Express Group of Companies

1881. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following recent raids on the Indian Express group of companies by the Income Tax Department Officials, re-opening of the completed tax assessments has been ordered from the assessment year 1972-73;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the details of the proceedings launched against the above companies and for what violations;

(c) what are the details of big business houses, if any, whose completed assessments since 1972-73 have been re-opened during the last five years; and

(d) what are the specific provisions under the Income Tax Rules to prevent harassments of the innocent by motivated officials and whether such instances have been reported to Government during the last three years, if so, what was the number thereof, year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Searches under Section 132 of the Inclme-tax Act were conducted on the Indian Express group of cases between 7th March, 1989 and 23rd March, 1989. The income-tax assessments of the concerns of this group were re-opened on the basis of investigations carried out and action initiated prior to the commencement of these searches as per the following details:

Name of the case	Assessment year	Date of re-opening
Andhra Prabha (P) Ltd., Madras	1983-84	8-3-1989
Express Newspapers Ltd., Madras	1972-73 to 1979-80	27-3-1989
Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.	1973-74 to 1980-81	30-3-1989
Express Traders (Firm) Bombay	1976-77 to 1979-80	30-3-1989

(c) There are 76 large industrial houses and 19 single large undertakings which are listed by MRTP Commission as on 31st March, 1988. These houses and undertakings comprise of 1655 companies, in addition to several entities such as firms, HUFs and Individuals. All these companies, firms, HUFs and Individuals are assessed to tax

by different assessing officers all over the country. The effort and time required to compile information regarding re-opening of their assessments since 1972-73 may not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved. However, if any information about any specific case is required, the same can be made available.

(d) Proceedings under the Income-tax Act including proceedings for re-opening assessments under Section 147 can be initiated on satisfaction of the conditions provided in the Income-tax Act. The existence of these conditions constitute in-built safe-guards in the Income-tax Act to prevent any harassment. Besides, the Income-tax Act also provides for appeals to appellate authorities. If there are any grievances arising out of any administrative lapse on the part of the assessing officer, appropriate administrative authority can be addressed for redressal of such grievances.

It is not practicable to furnish the number of grievance petitions received during the last three years as such petitions are received and dealt with at various levels within the Finance Ministry and in the field offices of the Income-tax Department located all over the country.

Modernisation of steel plants

1882. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to State:

(a) whether Rs. 50 crores. have been earmarked for modernisation and for improving productivity of Vishweshwaraya Industrial Steel Limited (VISL);

(b) if so, what are the details hereof;

(c) whether such modernisation programme regarding Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu is pending with the Ministry; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the modernisation programme and what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for installation of 500 M^3 Blast Furnace at VISL at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.35 crores as phase-I of modernisation is under consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relief to 100 per cent export oriented Industries

1883. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have agreed to provide relief to all the 100 per cent export oriented units which have been hit by withdrawal of the notification regarding sale of their products manufactured from indigenous raw material in the domestic tariff area;

(b) if so, by what time the relief is likely to be provided; and

(c) to what extent this measure will help the 100 per cent export oriented units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.